the first part of the question about Pakistan and the former Soviet Union, the IAEA has officially denied news reports which attributed such a statement to the Director General.

(b) Government has taken adequate security measures for the protection of all vital nuclear installations in the country and these are constantly monitored in the wake of the 11th September 2001 terrorist attacks in the United States. Additional security measures to tighten and enhance the security of installations have been taken and due vigilance is being maintained.

Security Assessments of Pakistan's Nuclear Assets

1909. DR. MANMOHAN SINGH:
SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards Press reports to the effect that three top retired nuclear scientists of Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission have been detained for their suspected links with the Taliban regime;

(b) whether Government are aware that the USA is drawing up a contingency plan to ensure that Pakistan's nuclear assets do not fall into the hands of Jehadi forces;

(c) what is Government's assessment of safety and security of Pakistan's nuclear assets; and

(d) what are the implications of these developments for India's security?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Government has entered into strategic dialogues with several countries and has thus assured ifself reasonably of the safety and security of Pakistan's nuclear assets. Government remain fully committed to taking all necessary steps to safeguard the nation's security in accordance with its own assessment of security threats.